



Pre-project erosion at the edge of a local road.

Award Amount
\$300,000

Watershed
Guadalupe River Watershed

County
Santa Clara County

CALFED Region
Bay Region

Legislative Districts
US Congress: 15 and 16
State Assembly: 27 and 28
State Senate: 11 and 15

Purpose

Restore approximately 2 acres of aquatic and riparian habitat in the Guadalupe River Watershed to support sensitive and endangered species.

Project Goals

- Restore 2 acres of riparian habitat in the Guadalupe River Watershed.
- Reduce sedimentation to the Almaden Reservoir.
- Reduce loadings of mercury to the Almaden Reservoir and the San Francisco Bay ecosystem.
- Assess watershed habitat restoration as a means of sedimentation control.
- Engage local community members in citizen monitoring efforts.

Benefits to the CALFED Program

One of the CALFED Program's objectives for water quality is mercury and sediment reduction to levels that do not adversely affect aquatic organisms, wildlife, or human health. This project helps to meet this objective by restoring habitat in the Guadalupe River Watershed to reduce the amount of sedimentation and mercury entering the watershed. In doing so, this project restores valuable habitat for sensitive species and improves water quality. By engaging local community members in monitoring efforts, this project increases local capacity to assess conditions and to make informed watershed management decisions.

Project Overview

The Almaden Reservoir sits in the southern portion of the Guadalupe River Watershed within the eastern foothills of the Santa Cruz Mountains. The watershed is 170 square miles and spans a range of rural, suburban, and urban land uses. The Guadalupe River is on the Regional Water Quality Control Board's 303(d) list as an impaired waterbody for mercury and diazinon.

This project restores two sites that are degraded as a result of historical mining activity that caused excessive sedimentation. The areas are downcut and eroding into the Almaden Reservoir. The sites are located in a northwestern drainage to the reservoir on public land under the management of the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation System. The County will take responsibility for maintenance upon completion of the restoration.

Elements of this restoration project include conducting an assessment to evaluate existing conditions, conducting soil stabilization practices, and rehabilitating streambanks with biotechnical measures. The primary intent of the biotechnical measures is simultaneous reduction of streambank erosion and improved riparian and stream habitat. Restoration of the two sites provides multiple benefits, including the restoration of habitat for sensitive and endangered species and reduction of sedimentation and mercury into the watershed.



Eroding masses in this stream contribute heavy metal contamination to the system.

Contact Information

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